

SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together With The

REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR1958S T A F FMedical Officer of HealthRobert N.C. McCurdy, M.B.
CH.B., D.P.H.Public Health InspectorD.B. Foxwell, C.S.I.B.,
M.A.P.H.I.

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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	93,216
Population (estimated at mid-year by Registrar General)	9,230
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,107
Rateable Value	£60,609
Produce of 1d Rate	£233

Mr. Chairman,
My Lord, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual
Report for the year 1958.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949
Regulation 20

During the year restrictions were placed on the
sale of milk from one herd owing to the presence of tubercle
bacilli. These restrictions were still in force at the
end of the year.

MEDICAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	98	66	164
<u>Stillbirths</u>	4	0	4

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Population at mid-year, Births, Birthrate, Stillbirths

Stillbirth Rate during the past five years

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Population	9,030	8,710	9,000	9,210	9,230
Births (total)	146	125	151	169	164
Birthrate per 1,000 of population	16.2	14.4	16.8	18.3	17.8
Stillbirths	2	3	3	4	4
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 of population	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births	13.5	23.4	19.5	23.1	23.8

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>All ages</u>	55	42	97
<u>Infants under 1 year</u>	2	1	3

Causes of Death of Infants under 1 Year

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Prematurity	2	0	2
Pneumonia	0	1	1

Population at mid-year, deaths, deathrate, infant deaths, infant mortality rate, during the past five years

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Population	9,030	8,710	9,000	9,210	9,230
Deaths	91	85	74	90	97
Deathrate per 1,000 of population	10.1	9.8	8.2	9.8	10.5
Infant Deaths	1	3	4	3	3
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	6.8	24.0	26.5	17.8	18.3

Deaths from certain selected causes during
the past five years

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Tuberculosis	0	0	2	0	0
Bronchitis & Pneumonia	14	6	5	9	12
Other notifiable infectious diseases	0	0	0	0	1
Motor vehicle & other accidents	3	4	2	5	2
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer of lung and bronchus	4	2	2	1	7
Cancer of all other sites	17	9	11	17	11

Deaths according to Ages (compiled)
From Returns submitted by the District Registrar

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	2	1	3
1 and under 5	0	0	0
5 10	0	0	0
10 20	1	0	1
20 30	0	0	0
30 40	1	0	1
40 50	2	1	3
50 60	3	0	3
60 70	9	3	12
70 80	20	21	41
80 90	14	14	28
90 and over	3	2	5
TOTALS	55	42	97

Causes of Death at ages above 1 year
and below 50

Age Group	Sex	Cause
10 to 20	Male	Road accident
30 to 40	Male	Coronary thrombosis
40 to 50	Female	Cancer of colon
	Male	Cancer of lung
	Male	Cerebral haemorrhage

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Deaths from all Causes
(Registrar General's Short List)

List No	Cause	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
4	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8	Measles	0	0	0
9	Other infective & parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	2	7
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	0	0
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14	Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms (other)	5	3	8
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	9	15
18	Coronary disease, angina	7	5	12
19	Hypertension with heart disease	0	2	2
20	Other heart disease	7	6	13
21	Other circulatory disease	5	5	10
22	Influenza	1	0	1
23	Pneumonia	1	2	3
24	Bronchitis	6	3	9
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0	2
26	Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32	Other defined & ill-defined diseases	5	3	8
33	Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1
34	All other accidents	0	1	1
35	Suicide	0	0	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTALS	All Causes	55	42	97

The following Table compares birth rates, death rates etc, of this district with those of England and Wales and of the Administrative County of Norfolk in 1958.

	England & Wales	Norfolk	Swaffham R.D
Birthrate	16.4	15.5	17.8
Stillbirth rate per 1000 total births	21.6	18.9	23.8
Deathrate	11.7	11.6	10.5
Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births	22.5	17.9	18.3
Tuberculosis death rate per 1000 population	0.10	0.06	0.0
Lung Cancer death rate per 1000 population	0.44	0.30	0.76

Infectious diseases notified during the past five Years

Disease	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Tuberculosis, all sites	4	1	1	2	3
Scarlet fever	8	9	12	4	2
Whooping cough	100	0	5	65	4
Malaria	0	0	1	0	0
Erysipelas	0	1	0	1	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	143	43	88	131	35
Poliomyelitis	2	4	0	2	1
Pneumonia	11	12	9	2	3
Infectious Jaundice	5	0	1	5	1
Food Poisoning	1	0	2	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	0	1	2	0	0

Infectious Diseases notified in 1958 by ages

Disease	Under 1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Ovr 65	To- Tal
Tuberculosis all sites	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Scarlet Fever	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Whooping cough	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Dysentery	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	3	12	18	2	0	0	0	0	35
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
Infectious Jaundice	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Infectious Diseases notified in 1958 by month
of notification

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Infectious Diseases notified in 1958
according to Parishes

	T.B. all sites	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Measles	Polionmyelitis	Pneumonia	Infectious Jaundice
Ashill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beachamwell	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bradenham	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cockley Cley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cranwich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cressingham St.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cressingham Lt.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Didlington	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Foulden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gooderstone	0	1	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
Hilborough	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Holme Hale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ickburgh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Lynford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mundford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Narborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Narford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Necton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Newton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oxborough	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Pickenham N.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pickenham S.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Saham Toney	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southacre	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sporle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stanford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sturston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weeting	0	0	0	0	1	19	0	0	0
TOTALS	3	2	4	1	1	35	1	3	1

The following Table shows the number of Cases on
the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1958
compared with 31st December, 1957

	<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Non-respiratory</u>			<u>Grand</u>
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Total</u>
31.12.57	16	10	26	3	2	5	31
31.12.58	14	9	23	3	2	5	28

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I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

R.N.C. McCURDY

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for 1958

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit hereunder my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1958.

1. RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

Drainage & Sewerage	120
Housing	332
Refuse Collection and Disposal	54
Food Premises	144
Water Supplies	67
Infectious Disease	21
Moveable Dwellings	28
Factories	18
Rat Infestation	39
Milk & Dairies	23
Verminous Premises	3
Miscellaneous	92
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	941
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2. COMPLAINTS & NUISANCES

32 reported nuisances were investigated and in all cases abatement was secured by informal action.

3. HOUSING

Informal action has been successful in most cases of complaint relating to the condition of property and minor repairs have been carried out as a result.

7 Notices of Time and Place under the Housing Act 1957 were served during the year as a result of which there were -

5	Demolition Orders
1	Closing Order
1	Undertaking to repair

Many owners of property have shown interest in the improvement of houses with grant aid under the Housing Act 1949.

Investigation was made in the case of preliminary enquiries relating to 56 houses.

Grants totalling £9395 were approved during the year for the improvement of 45 houses.

4. WATER SUPPLIES

Samples of water from Council main piped supplies were taken regularly during the year. A total of 41 samples were taken and upon bacteriological examination 38 proved to be satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory and 1 suspicious.

17 samples of water were taken from private sources and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological

examination. Of these 8 proved satisfactory, 6 unsatisfactory and 3 suspicious.

1 sample submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis proved to be satisfactory.

5. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

One reported case of poliomyelitis was investigated, contacts warned and disinfection carried out following the removal of the patient to isolation hospital.

This case was not confirmed and was subsequently diagnosed as virus malignant encephalitis.

Disinfection was carried out in two further cases following the removal of patients suffering from infectious disease.

6. DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation was carried out at two houses following reported infestation by flying ants.

A complaint of bats creating a nuisance in the roof space of a house was dealt with by driving out the bats by smoke and immediate sealing of means of entry.

7. SEWERAGE

Sewerage schemes serving the villages of North and South Pickenham were completed during the year and put into operation.

Work was commenced on installing sewers in the villages of Necton and Holme Hale.

At the end of the period under review, villages in the district which were sewered were Great Cressingham, Mundford, Saham Toney, Sporle, Weeting, Hilborough and North and South Pickenham.

Where no sewer is available drainage from the Council's post-war housing sites is disposed of mostly by subsoil irrigation after treatment in septic tanks. These tanks have been emptied at regular intervals with the Council's cesspool emptier, particular attention being given to those sited in areas where the nature of the subsoil renders soakage difficult.

The services of the cesspool emptier were available for work at private houses, a charge of 35/- for the first load and 20/- for any subsequent loads on the same day, being made.

285 visits to private properties were made in this manner during the year.

All works of new drainage were inspected before covering.

8. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection was carried out throughout the district by contract, one collection per month being made.

The volume of refuse collected continued to increase and complaints were again received regarding the infrequency of collection particularly from the occupiers of houses on the new housing estates who have moved from urban areas.

7 pits continued to be used for disposal purposes and were inspected from time to time. No nuisance was caused, but occasional unauthorised tipping caused inconvenience and where it was possible to trace the source of this the matter was taken up with the persons responsible.

All tips were treated during the year for minor rat infestation.

9. FOOD PREMISES

Food premises in the district coming within the scope of the

Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the Council's Clean Food Bye-Laws numbered 79.

These consist of :-

38	General Stores
3	Butchers shops
2	Fried Fish shops
1	Wet Fish shop
3	Bakehouses
2	Cafes
30	Public Houses

144 visits were made to food premises during the year in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. These visits included inspection of facilities for hygienic practice in public houses where considerable improvements have been made.

2 Fried Fish Shops are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and 3 Butchers Shops for the manufacture of sausages.

10. MEAT INSPECTION

Meat was inspected at Slaughterhouses in Thetford Borough and also in the Downham Rural District for short periods during the absence of the responsible officers.

The total meat inspected was :-

Cattle	17
Calves	1
Sheep	26
Pigs	36

11. MILK AND DAIRIES

19 Milk Distributors and 9 Dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. Regular inspections were made and the premises found to be satisfactory.

12 Dealers Licences to sell milk under the Special Designations 'Tuberculin Tested' and 'Pasteurised' were issued and 3 for 'Sterilised'.

In addition Supplementary Licences to sell milk as 'Tuberculin Tested' and 'Pasteurised' were issued to 7 holders of Licences issued by neighbouring authorities.

12. ICE CREAM

No ice cream is manufactured in the district. 24 shops are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of ice cream, this being pre-packed and stored in refrigerated cabinets.

23 samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. In 18 cases the report showed the samples to be Provisional Grade I, in 2 cases Provisional Grade II and in 3 cases Provisional Grade III.

13. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

10 Licences to station trailer caravans on sites within the district were granted during the year.

14. RODENT CONTROL

Part-time operators were again employed during the year to

carry out surveys under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, to determine the presence of rat infestations. Where requested, these operators also acted in a private capacity in the treatment of infestations found.

15. FACTORIES

There are 14 factories within the meaning of the Factories Act 1937 in the district. Inspections were made with regard to adequacy and maintenance of sanitary conveniences.

Building sites within the district were visited with regard to the provision of adequate sanitary conveniences.

Yours obediently,

D.B. FOXWELL

Public Health Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following part of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health:

1. WATER SUPPLIES

All major waterworks installations in the Council's area have been completed. Generally speaking the Rural District can be divided into two zones -

- (a) The Eastern, which is supplied by a Regional Scheme with its Headworks at Bradenham. Consumption in this area is approximately 130,000 gallons per day, and the Parishes supplied are Bradenham, Ashill, Holme Hale, Necton, North Pickenham, South Pickenham, Saham Toney and Sporle. Water is also sold in bulk from this source to the Mitford and Launditch Rural District Council for supplying their Parishes of Dunham and Shipdham.

Water from the Bradenham source, in common with most other waters in the locality is, in its raw state, hard, and has rather a high iron content. Both these are dealt with effectively by the Spiractor lime softening plant, the hardness being reduced from 410 parts per million to 140 parts per million, and the iron content of 2.5 parts per million is removed.

Bacteriologically, the water is of a very high standard, although the final water, before passing to service, is chlorinated by an automatic gas chlorination plant.

- (b) The Western zone, which is more sparsely populated, is supplied from individual small headworks or 'village schemes'. It will be seen that the Parishes of Gooderstone and Beachamwell are linked and have a common reserve storage at Gooderstone. Consumption in this area is 89,600 gallons per day, made up as follows:-

	<u>Gallons per day</u>
Beachamwell) One Headworks	
Gooderstone) at	
Gooderstone) Gooderstone	12,200
Cockley Cley	2,700
Cressingham, Little	8,800
Cressingham, Great	3,000
Foulden	2,300
Hilborough	2,100
Mundford	20,000
Narborough	15,200
Oxborough	3,300
For the Parish of Weeting water is purchased from Mildenhall R.D.C. The quantity used per day is approximately	20,000
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	89,600
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In both zones there have been increases in demand due to small extensions for domestic and farm use.

The iron content of water from the sources of the Western Area is negligible and does not cause any difficulty from the waterworks point of view. The total hardness of water from the village schemes is 200 parts per million and no softening takes place on any of the small schemes.

The total amount of water produced by the Council's Undertaking is accordingly 219,600 gallons per day.

2. HOUSING

During the year 4 Council Houses were completed, bringing the total number owned by the Council up to 946. In addition, there were 24 converted hutments in use as dwellings in the Parish of Weeting.

In the year under review, 32 houses have been completed by private enterprise. Most of these were at Weeting Park where the Council purchased a considerable area of land which is being sold off in small plots for private building.

The Council for their own part, have also modernised 27 of their pre-war houses and in addition purchased 26 sub-standard properties which were converted into 20 cottages with all modern amenities.

Yours obediently,

E.M. JENKINS

Surveyor

